

The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME IX, NUMBER 10

AUGUST 1961



Dr. Stanley U. North Elected To New Post

Dr. Stanley U. North, Oradell, N. J., general secretary for church extension and evangelism of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches, was elected secretary of the CC General Council at its sessions in Philadelphia in June.

As general secretary since 1958, he has been responsible for the over-all administration of eight departments: evangelism, research, town and country, urban church, church extension, church building, health and welfare, and church finance advisory service. From 1941 to 1958 he was in charge of city-mission work for the denomination.

Since 1945 he has been the dean of the Western Congregational Christian Pastors' School, held each summer at LaForet, Colo., which is one of several summer schools for ministers sponsored by the CC Board of Home Missions with the cooperation of the E and R Commission on Church and Ministry.

Before joining the Board of Home Missions Dr. North was minister of Congregational Christian Churches in Park Ridge, N. J., Walton, N. Y., and Briar Cliff Manor, N. Y. A graduate of Rutgers University, he received his ministerial training at Union Theological Seminary, New York City, and later did graduate work at Columbia University, where he received a Master of Arts degree in sociology. He also holds a Doctor of Divinity degree from Elon College, Elon College, N. C.

Dr. North assumes the office of secretary of the General Council created by the new by-laws of the General Council at Philadelphia. The General Council of the CC churches will be continued, according to the Basis of Union, to discharge necessary legal functions.

Dr. North is no stranger to the church-

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L to R: Mr. E. D. Floyd and Rev. Warren Blankenhorn of the Russell Woods Church at Groundbreaking Service.

Ordination Service Held, Rev. Warren Blankenhorn

The Reverend Warren A. Blankenhorn, minister of the Russell Wood's Congregational Christian Church, Phenix City, Alabama, was ordained to the Christian Ministry at a special service held at the church on Sunday, July 16, 1961.

The Reverend John D. Schofield, moderator of the East Alabama Association, presided over the council and service of ordination, which was authorized by the association.

Participating in the service were Rev. Harry Allen, St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Nashville, Tenn.; Rev. Kermit Harris, Rev. Warner Noles, Rev. Peter Doherty, Rev. Robert Shelton, Mr. H. Paul Beaird, secretary of the association, and Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr.

A reception was held following the service of ordination to which the people attending the service were invited.

Following the ordination service and the reception, groundbreaking exercises-

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Church Leaders Hail Union Court Decision

Leaders of the United Church of Christ hailed the decision of Federal Judge Edward J. Dimock, rendered on June 15th, as removing the last legal effort to frustrate the union of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Judge Dimock's decision, unless appealed, ends 12 years of litigation. The judge dismissed the suit on the grounds that all the issues have been decided previously in litigation in the New York State Courts and that the application of the rule of res judicata prevented the same issues being tried again.

Opponents of the union sought an injunction in a law suit brought in 1949 in the Brooklyn Supreme Court. Ultimately, the New York Court of Appeals in 1955 ruled that the suit was without merit and dismissed the action. The case dismissed by Judge Dimock was brought in 1957.

Disciples Of Christ Interested In Union

The International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) today (July 6) responded to union overtures from the United Church of Christ, by calling for conversations to begin in September, 1961. Following passage of a resolution by the Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ calling for opening of talks "at the earliest mutually convenient time," Rev. Dr. William Jackson Jarman, president of the Disciples body, responded that a representative committee is ready to begin talking in September, 1961, "to report back" and "to stimulate discussion of possible union on the part of our local churches."

On the United Church side the General Synod directed its Commission on Christian Unity and Ecumenical Study and Service to meet with the Disciples representatives and to "report regularly to the Executive Council of the General Synod on the status of these conversations."

As soon as the United Church of Christ was formed in June, 1957, the Christian Churches suggested the opening of conversations looking toward possible union of their denomination with the United Church.

In a joint message to the General Synod Dr. Jarman and Rev. George G. Beazley Jr., executive secretary of the International Convention of Christian Churches, said, "It is our profound hope that these conversations will enable these two portions of the Body of Christ to understand and to make one the historical streams which lie behind them and in which they partake, to the mutual enrichment of all of those who are members of either heritage. It is our fervent prayer that our future actions may give concrete expression to the unity which God has given us in Jesus Christ and may enable us better to proclaim the message of reconciliation which we have in him. It is our deepest desire that, in the Word spoken into history by God through the event of Jesus Christ and passed on to us through the Holy Bible, we may find a union that may bring blessing to us and make us a church that shall be instrumental in helping other portions of Christ's fragmented body to seek that unity for which our Lord prayed and which we can find only in him."

Highlights From Southern Union

By President Walter A. Graham

SUMMER SCHOOL FOR 1961 is now a matter of history, the enrollment being just 50% above that for 1960. There were 6 members of the faculty, Corley, Harper, Patterson, Van Cleave, Bruner, and 81-year-old Dr. Fred Patterson Ensminger, who taught a math course.

The 1961 WORK CAMP, directed by Rev. and Mrs. Dale Heckman from Greeley, Colorado, was a very pleasant experience for the college, especially. Five young men and seven young women from places as far away as Minnesota and Massachusetts spent two weeks on the campus, working in the mornings and sightseeing in the afternoons. Two new sidewalks, a painted kitchen, a small irrigation ditch, and helping move trailer village kept them busy and improved the looks of the campus.

The 5th of approximately ten SUMMER CONFERENCES is now under way on the campus. With the enlargement of Pilgrim Hall and the renovation and enlargement of Kimball Hall, the campus is truly admirably equipped for summer camp or conference purposes. The swimming pool now holds its water and brings much enjoyment to all who use it.

The auditorium of ELDER HALL now boasts of a brand new roof, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Robert A. Russell, who made the labor possible, and the Alexander City Manufacturing Company, who made the materials possible. The roof leaks were most embarrassing and we believe they have now been completely stopped. This constitutes the main construction for the summer, the entire renovation of Elder Hall, and the construction of the library being postponed until sufficient funds are available.

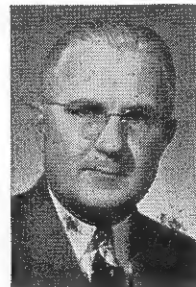
The roster of FACULTY & STAFF FOR 1961-1962 is almost complete, the new names and assignments being Rev. Melvin R. Fenner from Washington, who will be Chaplain and teach Religion, Bible, and related courses; Mrs.

(Continued from Page 1)

ches of the Southeast Convention. Through the years he has been a regular and welcome visitor to the area and has encouraged and supported the churches and the convention in the "Program of Progress" to achieve autonomy.

Alice Fenner, who will teach Public Speaking and Drama; Mr. Jack Patterson (an S. U. C. alumnus), who will teach Chemistry. One or two other appointments are under consideration and will be announced shortly.

The Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees, with Mr. Robert A. Russell as chairman, with the approval of the Board Chairman, W. P. Ingram, and the President, has entered into a contract with Church Fund Raising, Inc. for a ONE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.



The President of the firm is Rev. A. Ray Meserve, minister of our Congregational Church in Knoxville, Tennessee, who has already spent one week on the campus. The director of the first phase of the campaign is Mr. David N. Roller, who will be on the campus until September.

A BRAND NEW BROCHURE is now being prepared and will be mailed shortly to all of the persons who receive these HIGHLIGHTS. The brochure tells what has been done to date and states the plans for the next step as outlined by the Board of Trustees at its April meeting. It is hoped that every HIGHLIGHTER will want to have an active share in the program.

The PROGRAM OF ADVANCE is being organized in Wadley, Wedowee, LaFayette, Roanoke, Alexander City, West Point (The Valley), Sylacauga, and Birmingham. The City Chairmen, under the general chairmanship of Mr. Robert A. Russell, are Mr. Leon Phillips, Judge Stell Benefield, Dr. George Bowling, Mr. Julian Lowe, Judge C. J. Coley, Mr. Tap Hanson, Mr. Ed J. Smith, and Mr. W. Pressley Ingram, respectively for the cities named.

ENROLLMENT FOR 1961-62 looks very good at the moment. Although we never know the exact number until AFTER the time for registration, Mr. Raphord Farrington and Mr. Jack Patterson are busily engaged in calling on various prospects while Registrar L. L. James and others in the office do our part from the inside.

WHEN YOU ARE IN OUR AREA, BE SURE TO STOP BY AND SEE ALL THE CHANGES THAT ARE BEING MADE!

THANKS SO MUCH.

Walter A. Graham, President

WELCOME TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL

By Dr. James H. Lightbourne Sr.

(Dr. Lightbourne Sr., the Acting Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Conference, is the father of the Superintendent of the Southeast Convention.)

I welcome you in the name of the Pennsylvania Conference of Congregational Christian Churches. If my sources of information are accurate, this is the first time this conference has been host to such a gathering. The National Council assembled five times in neighboring states, the General Council four times, and the General Convention twenty-three times and twice in Canada, but for Pennsylvania this is a first. Every General Council is historic, but this may well be made more historic than its predecessors. Who knows but what we Congregational Christians from these days on will divide time by before and after the Philadelphia Council.

It is an honor and a pleasure to extend to you this welcome, but mingled with these emotions is the quality of sadness, for I well know how the recently deceased superintendent of this conference, the Reverend Cleon Swarts, anticipated participating in this Council and bringing to it words of welcome from this conference.

Our Pennsylvania conference has an interesting history in matters of origins, consolidation and survival. There have been frequent experiences of frustration; there has been a continuing courage and faith and the will to witness. At an early annual meeting one of the brethren in an address entitled "The Outlook for Congregationalism in Pennsylvania", said, "Congregationalism must be broad, long, high, deep and have bulk." In a state approximately 300 miles long and 150 miles wide our 16,320 Congregational Christians do not constitute bulk, but we are broad-minded, long-sighted, high in aspirations, and deep in our affection for freedom of spirit and liberty of conscience.

Pennsylvania is a very religious state. It was founded so to be. From the beginning it has welcomed with open arms the faiths of the world and the sects of Christianity. They are all here. So we welcome you in the name of diversity.

Our own Congregational Christian heritage is one of variety. We have a few churches which probably occasionally look back to Plymouth Rock and

say, "From it we came." But we have other and strong traditions, a Congregationalism which stems from Wales and Sweden; an association wholly composed of churches of the Christian branch deep-rooted in an autonomy as free as the winds; a Western Pennsylvania group of Evangelical Protestants coming into our fellowship from sources very close to the Reformation; and churches of a free order but of Nationalistic background seeking fellowship, belonging and community; Slovak, Armenian, Hungarian. We all welcome you.

Another will welcome you in the name of Philadelphia, City of Brotherly Love. But most of Pennsylvania lies outside Philadelphia. There are other and great cities known far and wide for their production of steel and the by-products of steel — and pickles. There are areas where coal, hard and soft, is mined. There are broad valleys whose soil is fertile and where contented herds graze and abundant crops grow. And our ridges are long and towering and our rivers are as beautiful in their flow as they are melodious in name. We are well called the Keystone State. In the name of all this strength of industry and scenic beauty we welcome you.

Some of you come from conferences and states in which our Evangelical and Reformed brethren are few in number. Evidently they swarmed in Pennsylvania. You find them almost everywhere. And wherever you find them you like them, and from them you receive a fellowship that is warm, generous and forthright. How patient they have been. And how understanding. In their attitudes toward us they have been courtesy personified and Christian grace exemplified. We will get along well together. We welcome you as a Conference which has gone on record to become an acting conference in the United Church of Christ.

We welcome you as fellow Congregational Christians. I am confident never before have there been so many Congregational Christians in Pennsylvania as there are at this moment. This in itself must be something in history. It is wonderful indeed to have this General Council, destined to be a memorable Council, meeting within the bounds of our conference. We thank you for coming. We invite you to come again. We hope you will want to do so. The

Church History Items Should Be Preserved

Church history is made week by week, not just when some big event happens. This history is usually recorded in Sunday bulletins, letters to members, and other printed matter. We become accustomed to seeing these things and may forget their value. Try writing the history of the church 100 years ago and you will quickly discover how important little recorded items became.

Don't throw away your history. Preserve it for those who will live after you are gone.

An excellent way to do this to send copies of all printed or mimeographed material to the Church History Room at Elon College, North Carolina. Mrs. Oma U. Johnson, Curator, will gladly place all historical material on file so it will be ready for future generations to learn what your church did in your day. Sending this material should be the specific responsibility of some person. Materials can be sent weekly, monthly, or as you like. The point is that if you send it your history will be preserved; if you do not the chances are that there will be no record left for future generations.

(Continued from Page 1)

es for the new educational unit of the church were held. The educational unit will be built on the new lot of the church to which it will shortly be moving because of its relocation necessitated by the route of the new highway. The church will worship in the educational unit until the total building is completed.

circumstances and environment are different from those of most of our Council meetings but we trust you will enjoy the change and find that God indeed is nearer than ecclesiastical windows, steeples and pews, and that His Spirit can guide and lead and govern wherever we gather with open minds and questing spirits.

Mr. Moderator, we are not anticipating parliamentary involvements which you could not resolve without the assistance of any other instrument than your raised hand or voice, but by reason of precedent and in order that you might have something to hold in your hand while you preside over these sessions, a gavel made from walnut wood grown and hewn at Harman Center, the capital, as it were, of our conference.

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Superintendent's Corner

The churches of the Southeast Convention which have not yet voted to become a part of the United Church recently received "A LETTER MIS-SIVE" from the Executive Committee of the General Council of Congrega-tional Christian Churches.

The letter shared with the churches some of the actions taken by the Gen-eral Council of CC Churches at their meetings earlier this summer in Phila-delphia.

Through resolutions adopted, both the General Council and the General Synod assured the CC churches which have not voted to become a part of the United Church of their continued in-terest in them, of their willingness to continue to have fellowship with them and to serve them, and of their hope that the churches will see fit to become a part of the United Church.

Last month in this column the reso-lution adopted by the General Synod was quoted. In part it said:

"BE IT RESOLVED that the General Synod affirm its hope and earnest de-sire that all local churches of both uniting communions will look forward with expectancy to, and prepare them-selves for mutually rewarding disci-ple-ship in the life of the United Church and that in the meantime they will em-ploy its ministries and services and use its instrumentalities as tools for their own mission endeavors."

The General Council resolution states in part that it be concerned to com-municate to these churches "... our continuing affectionate regard for fel-lowship with them, to the end that they may soon vote to become a part of the United Church and so keep un-broken the ties which have in the past made them one with our free tradi-tions."

The Vote On The United Church Constitution

Listed below are the churches of the Southeast Convention which voted to approve the constitution of the United Church and thereby, since the consti-tution has been declared in force, are counted as members of the United Church.

Also listed are the churches which voted against the constitution and the churches which voted "To Abstain" from voting. Even though these church-es did not approve the constitution, they may become a part of the United Church simply by voting to do so and informing the convention office of this fact.

Approximately 33 churches of the convention did not take action either way. These churches, too, may become a part of the United Church simply by voting to do so and informing the con-vention office of this fact.

1960 YEAR BOOK Churches "YES"

ALABAMA

- 3 Andalusia, Antioch
- 5 Andalusia, First
- 9 Birmingham, Pilgrim
- 11 Brantley, Liberty
- 12 Clio, New Hope
- 14 Dadeville, Elder
- 17 East Tallassee, C. C.
- 20 Garden City, C. C.
- 24 Headland, Blackwood
- 26 LaFayette, Pleasant Grove
- 27 Lanett, Cong'l. Chr.
- 29 Langdale, Cong'l. Chr.
- 34 Midland City, Christian Hill
- 36 Mt. Creek, Union
- 37 Phenix City, First
- 38 Phenix City, Russell Woods
- 40 Roanoke, Antioch
- 41 Roanoke, Bethany
- 42 Roanoke, First
- 43 Roanoke, Forest Home
- 44 Roanoke, Lowell
- 46 Roanoke, New Hope
- 51 Shawmut, Todd
- 52 Steele, Mt. Lebanon
- 53 Steppeville, Mt. Grove
- 54 Tallassee, Mt. Olive
- 57 Trinity, Caddo
- 58 Wadley, Christian
- 62 Wedowee, Noon Day

FLORIDA

- 65 Bonifay, New Effort

All of this goes to say that we hope our churches will continue to hold their places in our present fellowship and that those which have not voted to become a part of the United Church soon will do so.

- 66 Crestview, Dorcas
- GEORGIA
- 68 Ambrose, Christian
- 69 Atlanta, Center
- 70 Atlanta, Central
- 71 Barnesville, Fredonia
- 77 Columbus, First
- 78 Columbus, United
- 80 Demorest, Federated
- 83 Douglas, First
- 85 Gaillard, Pleasant Hill
- 87 LaGrange, Hillside
- 88 LaGrange, United
- 89 Meansville, First
- 91 Oxford, Sardis
- 92 Pearson, Union Hill
- 93 Pine Mountain, Oak Grove
- 94 Richland, First
- 98 Waycross, Williams Chapel
- 99 West Point, Bethel
- 100 Woodbury, Jones Chapel

KENTUCKY

- 101 Corbin, Pilgrim
- 102 Evarts, First

SOUTH CAROLINA

- 104 Charleston, Circular
- TENNESSEE
- 105 Chattanooga, Pilgrim
- 106 Crossville, First
- 107 Daisy, First
- 108 Deer Lodge, Cong'l. Chr.
- 109 Glen Mary, Comm.
- 110 Knoxville, First
- 111 Nashville, Brookmeade
- 112 Pleasant Hill, Comm.
- 113 Robbins, Barton Chapel
- 114 Soddy, First

1960 YEAR BOOK Churches "NO"

ALABAMA

- 4 Andalusia, Coldwater
- 6 Andalusia, New Home
- 8 Ashland, Bethel
- 18 Eclectic, Watson's Chapel
- 21 Goodwater, Oak Hill
- 28 Lanett, Huguley
- 45 Roanoke, Mt. Zion
- 47 Roanoke, Rock Springs
- 50 Seman, Comm.

FLORIDA

- 63 Baker, Good Hope
- 64 Baker, Pyron's Chapel
- 67 Floral, Cluster Springs

GEORGIA

- 72 Baxley, Friendship
- 75 Bristol, Antioch
- 76 Buford, Duncan's Creek
- 81 Doerun, New Light
- 96 Tifton, First

1960 YEAR BOOK Churches "ABSTAIN"

- 84 Enigma, Christian
- 86 Hampton, County Line

The Budget Of The General Synod

1. Resolved that General Synod approves the following budget for each of the years 1962 and 1963 of \$14,300,000. This amount to be allocated as follows, it being understood that these are basic goals and the divisional breakdowns within the major boards are approximations, subject to internal adjustments:

	Annual Budget for the Biennium 1962 & 1963		%
Executive Council		\$ 655,000	4.6
(Includes \$151,000 for contributions to Ecumenical Bodies, and \$75,000 for subsidies to E & R Synods)			
Board for World Ministries		5,389,000	37.7
Mission Division			
Field Expense	\$3,635,765		
Administrative & Home Expense	464,784		
Service Division			
Field Expense	1,141,244		
Administrative & Home Expense	147,207		
Total	\$5,389,000		
Board for Homeland Ministries		4,356,300	30.4
Higher Education and the American Missionary Association	1,090,000		
Church Extension	1,996,000		
Christian Education	875,000		
Health and Welfare	60,000		
Evangelism and Research	160,300		
Publication and Division (United Church Herald)	175,000		
Total	\$ 4,356,300		
Pension Boards		1,396,000	9.8
CC Pension Subsidies	\$ 485,188		
Ministerial Relief	10,000	495,188	
ER Pension Subsidies	879,312		
Administration, etc.	119,000		
Pastors' Homes	10,000		
	\$1,008,312		
Less Investment Income	160,500	847,812	
Miscellaneous (UCC)		53,000	
		\$1,396,000	
Council for Christian Social Action		270,300	1.9
Council for Lay Life and Work		304,700	2.1
Council for Church and Ministry		280,000	2.0
Stewardship Council		1,103,600	7.7
Office of Communication		245,100	1.7
Contingencies		300,000	2.1
Total		\$14,300,000	100.0

Note: The amount received in 1960 by the former National bodies for the above purposes was about \$10,825,000, and it now looks as though about \$11,800,000 might be received in 1961. The increase in 1961 may be about 9% and the budget for 1962 is about 21% above the estimated 1961 amount.

This budget does not represent the amounts requested by the two major boards. Their askings were far in excess of the amounts allowed by the budget committee.

Questions from the floor will be answered by members of the committee to the best of their ability. By December 31, 1961, a more detailed budgetary statement will be available from all the boards and agencies.

2. Resolved that General Synod hereby authorizes the Budget Committee to determine the formula by which payments are to be made from the Central Receiving Treasury to the instrumentalities in each of the years 1962 and 1963, up to the amounts set forth in the budget approved by General Synod.

3. Resolved that in the event that apportionment payments to the Central Receiving Treasury are in excess of \$14,300,000 in either 1962 or 1963, this excess shall be distributed as follows:

Board of World Ministries	54%
Board of Homeland Ministries	44%
Contingent	2%
Total	100%

This budget has been thoughtfully and prayerfully prepared, and it is offered with confidence in the Christian stewardship of the individual church member.

Respectfully submitted,

THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Donald L. Helferich, Chm.

W. Elliott, Pratt, Vice-Chm.

John T. Beach, Secy.

Mt. Grove CC Church Holds Church School

There was an attendance of 44 in the Vacation Bible School at the Mt. Grove Congregational Christian Church July 17th through July 21st.

Principal of the school was Mrs. Verla Ballard, also junior teacher. Beginner teacher, Mrs. Sharon Trimble; Primary teachers, Mrs. Betty P. Lett and Mrs. Betty Clark. Song director, Mrs. Peggy A. Clark, and Mrs. Louis Clark was the pianist.

There was a picnic on the church grounds after the school, directed by Mrs. Johnny Terry, chairman of the refreshment committee. On Friday night there was a program presented to the church. The beginners sang songs, said a verse and a prayer. The primary department gave a one-act play, "God Blesses Isaac." The juniors gave a scene of "Marching with Heroes." There was a worship service and pledges were given to the flag and the Bible. Solos were given by the following: Judy Ann Lott, Ann Clark, Calvin Terry, Dianne Burnham, Vivian Vansant, and Mrs. Peggy Clark.

A young people's choir was organized during the school. Other members offered and gave their services, making it possible for the children of our community to learn about God and His works.

The Mt. Grove Congregational Christian Church has recently purchased an electric organ.

United Clothing Appeal Depends On Our Churches

Fifteen million pounds of good used clothing are needed to aid victims of political and natural disasters throughout the world. Congregational Christian Churches have been active participants in the United Clothing Appeal in the past and are urged to increase their efforts this year.

Men's and boys' clothing, shoes, blankets and light clothing for tropical climates are needed especially. Coats, mittens, and sweaters for winter soon will be needed.

Clothing from this area should be

United Church General Synod Elects Rev. Ben M. Herbster New President

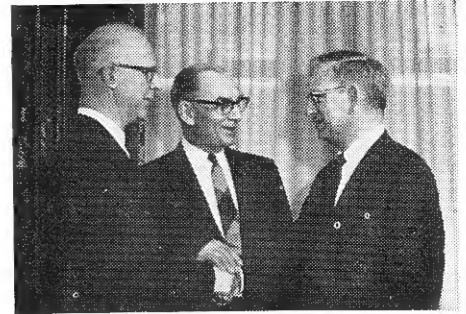
"Our first need is for a man of God whose central concern is always that we will be guided by the mind of Christ," declared Dr. Vere V. Loper of Berkeley, Calif., in supporting the nomination of Dr. Ben M. Herbster as president of the United Church of Christ.

For thirty years minister of Zion E and R Church of Norwood, Ohio, Dr. Herbster is "a good and generous man," as the parishioners of his church gladly testify, and he takes leave of the parish ministry after a distinguished career. When the new president began his pastorate in Norwood, the church had 281 members and its worship, education, and fellowship activities were conducted in an old stone mansion. Today the church has approximately nine hundred members and a completely modern sanctuary and facilities for worship, Christian education and fellowship. Beloved as a pastor, Dr. Herbster has demonstrated in manifold ways that he is an able administrator and executive. Although a quiet man of deep humility, he is endowed with the capacity for bold leadership from which the United Church of Christ will assuredly gather strength in the days ahead.

There are few areas of the church's life with which Ben Herbster has not at some point in his career been involved, but perhaps his dedication to the ecumenical movement on local, national, and world levels is most indicative of the measure and statesmanship of the man. In 1957 Dr. Herbster was elected to the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ, and for the past three years he has served as co-chairman of this body.

Married in 1929 to the former Elizabeth Beam, the daughter of pioneer medical missionaries in China, Dr. Herbster has two married daughters. One is the wife of an E and R minister, the Rev. Marcus S. Buehrer of Grace Church in Columbus, Ohio, and the

sent to Church World Service, New Windsor, Maryland.



L to R: Dr. Fred Hoskins and Dr. James E. Wagner congratulate President Ben M. Herbster.

other is Mrs. Roger Liston. Dr. Herbster is a graduate of Heidelberg College, of which he is now a trustee, and of Central (Eden) Theological Seminary. He also did graduate work at Ohio State University, McCormick Theological Seminary, and the Chicago Theological Seminary in Chicago, Ill.

In his firm yet felicitous statement of acceptance — marked by clarity, conviction and courage — Dr. Herbster declared that "the United Church of Christ will be able to justify the 'blood, sweat and tears' that have gone into the union effort during these past years only if we are able to achieve a new devotion and loyalty to the demands of the gospel of Jesus Christ. These demands include, beyond a personal commitment to the way of Christ, an unending effort to guarantee all men, women, and children, here in the United States and to the ends of the earth, a chance to live in a world of freedom, good will, and justice."

Other officers of the United Church of Christ elected by General Synod were Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer, secretary, and Charles H. Lockyear, treasurer. Dr. Buschmeyer has been assistant general secretary of the National Council of Churches and director of its Washington office since 1957. From 1949 to 1957 he was associate minister and secretary of its Department of Ministry. Mr. Lockyear has been treasurer of the Evangelical and Reformed Church since February 1960, and interim treasurer of the United Church.